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THE OBSERVATOR.

On the Scots *Plot. A Paper of* Fergusons. *Remarks thereon.*

From **Saturday** June the 17th, to **Wednesday** June the 21st, 1704.

Country-m. MAster *Observator*, your Friends at *London* bid me tell you, That 'tis their Advice, you chuse another Subject, and desist at present from Annatomizing the Information against you, you have given the World a Sample thereof already, which, perhaps, may be forgotten before your Trial, and therefore Reserve the rest, to Refresh their Memories. Will you now give me a further Account of the *Tory-Popish-High-Flying-Top-Gallant* High-Priest *Laud*?

Obs. Not at present.

Country-m. I don't know what's the matter with you of late; you won't oblige me in any thing. I have a good Mind to chuse another *Observator*, and do you get an Honester *Country-man* if you can.

Obs. Why in such a Passion? I tell thee I will give thee a further Account of *Laud*, and that in a little time; and at present I'll entertain you with a Useful and Diverting Discourse. D'ye see I have here got a Collection of Original Papers about the *Scots* Plot.

Country-m. Pray, Sir, speak softly then, and let no Body hear you but my self and our *Joan*, for you know that's one part of the Charge against you; you said there was a Plot against the Queen and Realm.

Obs. Here it is in my Hand, you see a large Collection of the Papers relating thereunto; and whilst we have *Perkinites* and *Non-jurors*, we need not question a Plot, 'tis their Trade and Business; they have nothing else to do in *England*, that I know of, for they are none of us, tho' they are with us, they are Renegadoes, both from Church and State.

Country-m. Well, let's hear this Plot?

Obs. I shall not consider the Nature and Contrivance of the Plot, how fully prov'd, or of what Tendency, the Parties Concerned, or whether still carried on; I leave that to the Consideration of the *Scots Parliament*, when they meet. I shall only make some Observations on a Paper of Mr. *Robert Fergusons*, which I find in this Collection.

Country-m. This makes me Laugh, *Ferguson* and you are both under the Lash, and both appear'd at one time in the *Queens-Bench-Court*. Methinks you two should agree like a couple of Privateers, and not Fight one another.

Obs. You'll find he and I can never agree in Point of Principle: I'll read you part of his Paper, Subscribed by his own hand. No. 14. *December* 24. 1703.

I do Solemnly declare, That so far as concerns either my Knowledge or my Belief; there is not a Non-juror, *or one reckon'd a* Jacobite, *engag'd in a Plot, or that will, against Her Majesty and Government. Yea, 'tis so far from giving them uneasiness, that Her Majesty is on the Throne, that they heartily bless God the Monarchy is preserved against the Designs of the* Republicans, *and that one of the Serene Family of the* Stuarts *Possesses the Soveraignty, in Despite of all the Endeavours of such as would have Supplanted Her, had the late King* William *liv'd, or would have brought either the Princess* Sophia *of* Hannover, *or the Prince, her Son, into* England *or* Scotland, *during her Reign, since his Decease. And that 'tis not to be denied, but there are those in Her Majesties Dominions, who will not Swear to serve Her against the Prince at St.* Germains, *yet since they are willing to live quietly under Her Majesties Authority; 'tis hop'd they will be distinguish'd from Rebels and Traitors.*

Country-m. Oh Brave *Bob!* Here's a fine Old *Scots* Rat. *Jack Kitch* split the Weem of the false Loon. I hope he's caught in a Trap at last. What a Varlet is he to say our Great and Glorious Monarch King *William*, would have supplanted Her Majesty, Queen *Ann*?

Obs. That's one part of the Plot against the Queen and Realm, by Insinuating in the Minds of the People, that there have been and are Designs to bring in the House of *Hannover* during her Majesties Reign; and these are the *Republicans*?

Country-m. What Country-men are those *Publicans*? If any of 'em come into *England* I'll Publish 'em for a Pack of Villains, and help beat out their Brains.

Obs. By *Republicans*, he means such as are for a Common-Wealth; that is, such as would change the Government of *England* into a State like that of *Venice*.

Country-m. Bless me! I shall go Mad; I never heard of these Fellows before; why, here are a New sort of Enemies to the Queen and Realm.

Obs. These are Imaginary Enemies, Enemies *In Nubibus*; these are the *Monstra Horribilia* of Statesmens Brains, that are presented to the view of Soveraigns in the most amazing Forms, that whilst their Thoughts are employed about Imaginary Designs, under that Umbrage, Real ones may be carried on.

These mean Artifices of Misrepresenting Persons, have been of such common use, and Exploded in so long a Tract of Time, that 'tis wonderful they are not hiss'd off the Stage, and that a Misrepresenter is not as Odious amongst Mankind, as is the greatest Knave; for he's a common Thief in Stealing away his Neighbours Reputation; he's a *Paracide* in creating an ill Opinion in Soveraigns, of those who are the best Supports and Props to their Governments; he's an Enemy to Truth, and therefore a Friend to the Devil, whose Servant he is, and who will pay him his Wages.

But this Art of Detraction has done Wonders in Kingdoms, where Soveraigns have Carelesly Lean'd instead of Sitting on their Thrones, where they have not been Tenacious of their own Councils, nor taken Care to discriminate betwixt Parties and the real Designs of the Misrepresenters; according to the Principles of this Policy, the Cause of *Perkin* must be carried on in *England*, by raising Calumnies on such as would keep him out. If you have Honest Judges, they must be call'd *Common-Wealths-Men*. If you have Pious and Learned Prelates, they must be call'd *Presbyterians*;

terians; and all such as are for *Liberty* and *Property*, that are Men of *Revolution Principles*, for the present Government, and the Succession of the House of *Hannover*, according to the Settlements of the great Council of the Nation, must be called *Enemies to Monarchy*.

I don't now speak without Book. Had we ever a more Learned and Pious Set of Bishops than at present in *England?* And were ever such Reverend and Worthy Personages so abominably Vilify'd and Scandaliz'd in Publick Prints, Misrepresented to the whole Kingdom, if not to the Queen.

Country-m. Ay, but hark ye me, Master *Observator*, why ben't these Fellows inform'd against in the *Crown-Office?* Why ben't they? I don't know of any thing that has been done against them at Law. Is there no Body to Prosecute on behalf of the Church as well as the State? You are Prosecuted for Writing the Truth of the good Folks of the Navy. Is there no Body to Prosecute these Fellows that Write against the best Bishops that ever were known in *England?*

Obj. That's none of my Business. The best Men suffer most by Scandal; and you see here *Ferguson* has not spared the Pious Memory of the the Immortal *William*.

Country-m. I thought our Noble Patriots, the Peers, had clear'd that Point, and had Justify'd King *William* to the Queen, and the whole People.

Obj. Yes, they did; and after they had Examined into the Papers left in King *Williams* Closet, they could find nothing of that Nature, and so they represented it to the Queen.

Country-m. I remember there was one Doctor *Drake*, or Doctor *Duck*, or Doctor *Buzzard*, I am sure twas some Physical Fowl or other, was order'd to be Prosecuted for Wrighting after that manner. How came he off?

Obj. I shan't trouble my self about what is done in our Courts of Justice: His Book was Burn't by the hands of the common Hang-man in *Scotland*; and however he came off, I am sure he is got in to be a Commissioner in one of our Offices.

Country-m. But Honest *Bob* says, There is not a *Non-juror* nor a *Jacobite* engag'd in a Plot.

Obj. No to be sure, neither *Bob*, nor any of his Party, either was, or will be concerned in a Plot.

Country-m. That's a Whopper; Master, if you take up the Trade of Lying, I shall leave your Conversation.

Obj. I speak Ironically.

Country-m. Don't tell me your hard Iron Words; speak plain *English*, and plain Truth.

Obj. Why then, in plain *English*, and plain Truth, no one but a *Jacobite*, or *Non-juror*, was, or can be concerned in a Plot against Queen *Ann*.

Who were the People that were concerned in that Execrable and Villanous Plot against the Life of King *William*, commonly call'd the *Assassination Plot?* Were they not *Jacobites* and *Non-jurors?* Was there one *Whig*, or *Commonwealthsman* concerned in that Villany? And was not that Plot formed equally against Queen *Ann*, as against King *William?* For tho' the Plot was Formed against the precious Life of that Great Prince, it was also formed against the Succession of Queen *Ann*; for had King *William* at that time fallen by the Hands of Bloody Assassines, Queen *Ann* had never Risen to the Throne; for the Plot was not contrived to take away King *William*, to make Room for Queen *Ann*, but for the late King *James*; and yet *Robert Ferguson*, the Mouth of the Party, has the Impudence to say, that the *Non-jurors* and *Jacobites* are no Plotters.

None but the *Non-jurors* and *Jacobites* can be concerned in a Plot against Queen *Ann*; the rest of the People of the Realm are Her Majesties Leige People, they have bound themselves to Her Majesties Interest by the Sacred Tyes of Oaths and Covenants; they are bound one to the other by Reciprocal Oaths and Solemn Obligations; they are so firmly United, that the breach of but one link of that Chain would be the Ruin of Queen and People.

Country-m. And the deel break the Craig of that false *Loon*, who would create a misunderstanding betwixt Her Majesty and Her best Subjects.

Obj. 'Tis here very fairly insinuated that some People (whom *Robbin* must name some time or other) have a design of the same Nature as he pretends King *William* had; but, as it was abominably False and Scandalous on the one, so is it on the other. No honest Man I am sure can be Guilty of such ill Thoughts; and the Persons here Represented to be so, are the farthest from a thing of that Nature as any in the Kingdom.

But you must here take notice of some of *Robins* Contradictions. He says, that the *Non-jurors* and *Jacobites* have no uneasiness by Her Majesties being on the Throne, and yet soon after he says, *They will not Swear to serve Her against the Prince at St.* Germains.

Country-m. That's a pretty Story; and special Friends are they to Her Majesty, who is much beholding to them; they are not uneasie at what they can't help or remedy, they are not troubled to see Her Majesty on the Throne, nor will they trouble their Heads to assist her against *Perkins*, special Subjects! A Rope and Butter for such Hounds! But, God be thanked, the Queen has no need of the Service of any *Jacobite* or *Non-juror*. She has Friends enough to stand by Her against *Perkin*.

Obj. But, mark how *Robin* concludes this Paragraph. *Yet since they are willing to live quietly under Her Majesties Government, 'tis hop'd they will be distinguish'd from Rebels and Traitors.*

Country-m. Ay, ay, they'll live quiedy as long as they can't be troublesome, and they would not have us call 'em *Rebels* and *Traitors*, till such Time as they have an Opportunity of being *Rebels* and *Traitors*, which I say they are already; for he that is not willing to serve Her Majesty against *Perkin* in St. *Germains*, is a *Rebel* and a *Traitor*; he's a Son of *A*——, and so we'll leave 'em till next Time we meet.

This Day is Publish'd

THE *Good Old Cause:* Or, the Divine Captain Characteriz'd: In a Sermon upon 2 *Sam.* 10. 12. for the Encouragement of Her Majesties Forces. By *Edmond Hickeringil*, Rector of the Rectory of *All Saints* in *Colchester*. Printed and Sold by *S. Malthus*, in *London-House Yard*, at the West End of St. *Paul's*.

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